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Dreams and Premonitions. Prophetic Visions That Came True.

From time immemorial dreams have exerted a profound influence over the human race. In olden times the gods were supposed to communicate direct with men through the medium of dreams, warning them of coming events or conveying divine instructions. Every king had his interpreter, whose office it was to explain the meaning of the royal nightmare and advise the king accordingly. Joseph was called in this capacity to Pharaoh and Daniel to Nebuchadnezzar, you remember. And, indeed, in all times the seer has been found in dreams and credulity of the dreamer material ready to hand for exploitation.

Dreams prophetic of disaster have come to many people, and folk possessed of "second sight" have often had the same uncanny prescience. Numerous individuals, for instance, have had some kind of dread prevision of the Great War—have beheld in dream scenes too horrible to describe, the impressions of which took long days to wear away, and which were recognized with a sort of horror when the even was fulfilled.

An Unheeded Warning.

A strange dream warning that came to a doctor's wife was recently related in the newspapers. Her husband had a young man with him as dispenser. He lived as one of the family, and they were all exceedingly fond of him. One day he was offered a lucrative appointment in Australia. He did not want to accept it, as he was very happy where he was; but it was a splendid opening for a young man, and the doctor said that of course there could be no question of his refusing. In the end he made up his mind to go.

On the morning of the day on which he was to sail the doctor's wife came down to breakfast pale and distraught. She had dreamed that she had seen the dispenser quite distinctly on board a liner in mid-ocean, that he was fishing, that a huge bird got hold of his line and pulled him overboard, and that she saw him drowned. Needless to say

she was laughed at. But what she saw in her dream did actually happen. During the voyage some of the passengers, this young man amongst them, were fishing for albatross. One of these powerful birds got hold of his line; he missed his footing, fell overboard, and before a boat could be lowered he was drowned.

Warned in Time.

The Hon. J. C. Middleton, vice-president of the Akron-Canton Railway of Ohio, declared that a dream prevented him sailing in the ill-fated Titanic, which sank to the sea-bottom off Cape Race after collision with an iceberg in April, 1912. And when the Waratah set out on her first voyage in 1909 from Australia en route for England she had a gentleman passenger on board who dreamed that he saw a man in a peculiar dress holding in his right hand a sword dripping with blood. This strange vision so impressed him with a feeling of impending disaster that he left the vessel at Durban. The Waratah never reached Cape Town, and after the passenger landed at Durban he dreamed that the ship was caught in a heavy sea which completely submerged her.

A dream warning saved the life of the late Lord Dufferin. One night in Paris he dreamed he was in a hearse going to the cemetery, and a few days later when entering the lift at an hotel he was startled to recognize in the attendant the driver of the hearse in his dream. He promptly left the lift and ascended without him, but as it neared the top something broke, and the passengers were hurled to destruction.

A Dramatic Vision.

The death of the gallant and unfortunate Major Andre, whom Washington had to hang as a spy, was foreseen by a Mr. Cunningham. In conversation with a friend, Mr. Cunningham spoke of the circumstances of a dream he had had the night before which affected him so much that he could not shake off the recollection of it.

He said he was standing in the midst

of a forest that was entirely strange to him. After gazing steadily around him for a few moments he perceived a horseman approaching him at great speed. As the latter came opposite the spot where the dreamer stood three men who seemed to be lying in ambush sprang from their place of concealment, and, seizing the bridle of the horse, ordered the rider to dismount. They then carefully searched his person and led him away.

The face, figure, and bearing of the horseman made so deep an impression on Mr. Cunningham's mind that he awoke; but, falling asleep again presently, he dreamed that he was one of a throng of spectators near a great city, that he saw the same person he had seen seized in the wood brought out between files of soldiers, who marched him to a gallows and there hanged him.

Extraordinary to relate, later in the same day Mr. Cunningham was introduced to Major Andre, who was then in Britain, and was horror-struck to discover in his person the very man whose seizure and execution he had witnessed in his dream.

Explain how you will, but here is an accurate anticipation of events that actually happened within twelve months of the dream. The capture of Major Andre, the search of his person for documents that convicted him for acting the part of a spy, and his public execution constitute one of the most dramatic episodes of the Revolutionary War of the United States, and is an historical fact.

The Doctor Dumbfounded.

An American doctor, who was very sceptical of premonitions and dream warnings was told by a friend one night that he was sure President Lincoln had been murdered. In a few hours the news was flashed into the town, and the sceptical doctor was convinced, but dumbfounded.

President Lincoln himself had a premonition of the tragedy which sometimes warns the assassin's victim. On the afternoon of the day on which he was murdered he attended a Cabinet Council. All present were struck by his unusual gravity.

"Gentlemen," he said, "something very extraordinary is about to happen, and that soon. For the third time I have dreamed the same dream. I dream that I am drifting on a great, broad, rolling river. But this is not business, let us proceed to business." A few hours later he was dead.

Remunerative Dreams.

Andrew Lang was a firm believer in dream warnings and messages, and he used to tell a story of a barrister who took his letters to the post after midnight, and while getting into bed afterwards discovered the loss of a cheque for a large sum which he had received during the day. He hunted in vain for it, until, tired out, he went to bed, to dream that he saw the cheque curled round an area railing near his door. He awoke and instantly got up, went out, and there found the cheque.

Dreams have brought much inspiration to both authors and musicians. R. L. Stevenson tells how an idea for "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" came to him in a dream. Dante's "Divine Comedy" is said to have been suggested by a dream, and there is the well-known instance of "Kubla Khan," which Coleridge composed while asleep in a chair.

Much fine gold, in fact, has found its way into the pockets of people who believed in dreams and premonitions. A dream once directed a couple of prospectors to a gold reef in the neighbourhood of Callambo, in Victoria. It brought them a fortune.

On the strength of a dream a well was sunk at a certain spot in the oil districts of Pennsylvania. In a short time oil was gushing from it at the rate of 2000 barrels a day! The "Coquette Well," as it was christened, put over a million pounds into the pockets of its lucky owners.

Sportmen—horse-racing men in particular—are implicit believers in dreams, and stories innumerable could be told of winners that have been "spotted" in dreamland, and of patrons of the turf who have not hesitated to back rank outsiders to their own financial benefit—solely and simply because they had dreamed that "So-and-so" would be first past the winning post!—Glasgow Weekly Herald.

The Irish Problem.

AS IT IS SET TO-DAY.

Ireland shall have full Dominion status within the British Empire. Ireland shall have complete autonomy in finance and taxation. Ireland shall maintain her own military force and police. Ireland shall control her own Postal Service, Education, Agriculture, Mines, Forestry, Housing, Labor and Unemployment laws, Trade, Public Health and Liquor legislation.

British's Obligations.

The Royal Navy shall control the seas around Britain and Ireland, and shall have access to Irish coasts and harbors for defence.

The members of Ireland's military defence force shall conform with any agreement reached between the nations regarding disarmament.

Britain shall have necessary facilities for the development of air defence and communications.

Ireland may voluntarily contribute to the cost of the naval and military forces of the Empire and may permit

voluntary recruiting for Irish regiments in Britain's army.

There shall be no tariffs or trade restrictions between Britain and Ireland. Ireland shall assume a share of the United Kingdom's present debt, such share being determined by arbitration.

Ireland's Answer.

Ireland's right to choose "her own path" must be fully conceded. The right of Ireland to secede at any future time from the Empire shall be acknowledged. Treaties between Britain and Ireland with regard to trade and armaments shall be approved by the National Legislature and confirmed by the Irish people.

Free association with the other nations of the Empire on the plan of the League of Nations might be accepted. If Ulster would surrender its separate status.

Ulster's Attitude.

Ulster will abide by the terms of the Government of Ireland Act, and will refuse to perjure with De Valera until he recognizes that Northern Ireland will admit to other authority save that of the King and of the Imperial Parliament.

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